Pam. Serm

A

SERMON,

DELIVERED AT HAVERHILL,

FEBRUARY 5, 1812

ON THE OCCASION OF TWO YOUNG LADIES

BEING ABOUT TO EMBARK AS THE WIVES OF

REV. MESSIEURS JUDSON AND NEWELL.

GOING

MISSIONARIES TO INDIA.

By JONATHAN ALLEN, *A. M.*
PASTOR OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN BRADFORD.

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
JESUS CHRIST.

HAVERHILL, MASS.
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1812.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE occasion of the following Sermon was serious and solemn. It was expected that two of the Missionaries and both of the young Ladies about to sail with them to India would be present But both of the young gentleman and one of the young ladies, were providentially called away, before the sermon was delivered. In consequence of this, the Address to the young gentlemen was omitted; and that to the young ladies was varied. But by particular desire, as well as to render the sermon more complete, it has been thought proper to publish the whole as it was then written. If it should in any measure, awaken the attention of people in this part of the country to the exigencies of the brethren, it may be of some special importance, and that this may be the happy effect, is the most fervent prayer of the* *AUTHOR.*

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* The young ladies were Miss NANCY HASELTINE, a member of the first church in Bradford; and Miss HARRIOT ATWOOD, a member of the first church in Haverhill They are since married, the one to Rev Adoniram Judson, the other to Rev Samuel Newell, and are immediately to sail for India.

SERMON.

JOHN XI. PART OF THE 52 VERSE.

THAT ALSO HE SHOULD GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE, THE CHILDREN OF GOD THAT ARE SCATTERED ABROAD.

GOD has, according to his eternal counſels, among the ſons of men, a choſen people. Theſe he has been pleaſed to denominate his children. But they ever have been, now are, and ever will be, till the end of the world, ſcattered abroad. Some are already gone to heaven, ſome are now upon earth, and ſome have not yet come into being. All theſe, however, ſooner or later muſt be collected together.

Previous to our Savior's death Caiaphas, as vile as he was, foretold, that Chriſt ſhould die for the Jewiſh nation, and not for that nation only; but that alſo he ſhould gather together in one, the children of GOD, that are ſcattered abroad. This prophecy was, undoubtedly correct. It thus appears, that one great object of Chriſt's death was, to collect, unite, and bring together, his choſen people into one body. This grand event will, finally, be accompliſhed. The arrangements for it, in the divine government, are already made, the wheels to bring it about are all in motion; and not one of them will ever ſtop, till the important object is obtained.

When we look into the prophecies both of the Old

and New Teſtament, and compare the diſpenſations of providence with them, we cannot but ſee how wiſely all things are ordered for their completion. We, therefore, look forward with confidence to their final accompliſhment. We, indeed, ſee ſuch events now crowding on, as cannot fail, under the direction of the Moſt High, to bring them to paſs. We alſo believe, that God, according to his promiſe, will give his *Son* the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermoſt parts of the earth for his poſſeſſion. He will gather together his children, from all parts of the world. This we ſhall endeavour to illuſtrate in the following diſcourſe. In order to this, we ſhall attempt to ſhow what he has already done to collect them; what he is now doing, and what appears yet needful to be done.

We are now accordingly

1. To ſhow what he has already done to collect them. Here opens to view a field immenſely great and important. It includes in it all that Chriſt has ever done for the ſalvation of men. It comprehends the whole revelation of his will, his incarnation, ſufferings, death, reſurrection; and all ſuch gracious influences of the Holy Spirit, as he has been pleaſed to afford to any of the children of men. All theſe, and every thing connected with them, or any part of them, we have made known to us in the ſacred word. This he hath commanded to be preached to mankind.

Before our Lord left the world, he gave this injunction to his Apoſtles and miniſters. "Go ye, and

teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghoſt." This command he alſo renewed after his reſurrection, in the following words: "Go ye, into all the world, and preach the Goſpel to every creature." It was, likewiſe, enforced with this declaration, "He that believeth, and is baptized ſhall be ſaved; but he that believeth not ſhall be damned."

The Apoſtles, as far as they were able, complied with their inſtructions. They went forth, two and two, into all the world. The Goſpel was thus, in a very little time, preached in moſt parts of the wide extended Roman Empire, and ſpread far, into other parts of the world. Aſia, Africa and Europe, ſoon became enlightened with its beams. It was alſo attended with a divine power for the converſion of ſinners. Vaſt multitudes, in a ſhort time, were turned from their idols to ſerve the only living and true God.

Theſe Heralds of Salvation, however, did not continue long upon earth. The term of their miſſion was but ſhort. They all cloſed the ſcene of their labors in different parts of the world; and all, except one, ſuffered death for the cauſe in which they were engaged. But the favor of their labors did not die with them. They eſtabliſhed Churches in every city where they went, ordained elders in them, and left the care of theſe Churches to them as their ſucceſſors.

In order to account for this rapid progreſs of the Goſpel, we muſt take into view the extraordinary powers conferred on the Apoſtles. They ſpake all

the various languages of the people to whom they preached. "God alſo bore them witneſs, both with ſigns, and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghoſt."

Had the ſucceſſors of the Apoſtles, been endowed with the ſame gifts that they were, the world would have ſoon been enlightened by the Goſpel ; and all mankind would have been taught of God. But when the gift of tongues ceaſed, and the influences of the Holy Spirit were, in any meaſure withheld, ſuch extraordinary ſucceſs could not be expected. Beſides ; when the Lord has been ſowing good ſeed in his field, Satan has always, likewiſe been buſy in ſowing tares. Theſe tares have not failed, in many places, to ſpring up, and choak the word, and render it unfruitful. This was the effect, even in the days of our Savior and his Apoſtles, and has continued to the preſent time. The word of God has thus, by many, been corrupted ; its ſucceſs retarded, and in a great part of the world, an entire ſtop put to its progreſs. This has been awfully realized, where the Papal ſuperſtition, and Mahomedan deluſion have had their baleful influence. It is to be imputed to this, that many nations once favored with the light of the goſpel, now enjoy none of its reviving beams. But the progreſs of the Goſpel is not, in this manner, to come to an end. Theſe days of darkneſs, which have for ſo many ages, veiled the world, we truſt are now almoſt over and gone. The night, at leaſt, is far ſpent, and the day is at hand.

The reformation, in the days of Luther and his aſſociates, gave the Papal beaſt a deadly wound. This wound has never yet been healed; and muſt, finally terminate in his death. The Mahomedan monſter alſo, begins, of late, to totter on his throne. The idols of the heathen, likewiſe, ſtand trembling before the Ark of the Lord. Dagon and all his images are deſtined, very ſoon to fall. "I will ſhake all nations," ſaith the Lord, "and the deſire of all nations ſhall come." The events which have taken place in Europe, for a number of years paſt, are in perfect conformity to the former part of this declaration. There has been a great ſhaking among the nations; and according to the prophecies, there muſt be much greater ſtill; and the commotion will extend to thoſe who, at preſent feel little or nothing of it. Babylon muſt fall; the river Euphrates be dried up, and the way for the kings of the eaſt be prepared. Theſe prophecies, evidently, point out the overthrow both of the Papal and Mahomedan dominions; and the reſtoration of God's ancient people. Preparation has been making, for all theſe great events, from the foundation of the world. The hiſtory of ages paſt, in connection with the prophecies, unfold the grand deſign. We are thus taught that ſuch tremendous ſcenes are, now, nigh at hand. We look through the glaſs of prophecy, and hail the day, when it ſhall be ſaid, *Babylon is fallen, is fallen.* When the beaſt and the falſe prophet ſhall ceaſe to make the earth drunk with the blood of his ſaints. We rejoice in hope, that the

time will ſoon come, when idolatry, ſuperſtition, and irreligion ſhall come to an end.—When Satan himſelf ſhall be bound a thouſand years, and ſhall deceive the nations no more, till the thouſand years be fulfilled.

2. We are to ſhow what the Lord is now doing to gather in his people. Here again, we ſee ſuch events as are enough to aſtoniſh the world. We behold the great conteſt between truth and error, between Chriſt and Satan faſt advancing to a criſis. We find, on the one hand, Satan at the head of his numerous legions preparing for the battle. We find, on the other hand, the Prince of peace collecting his forces, and marſhaling them for their defence.

The enemies of Chriſt, never exerted themſelves for the overthrow of religion, at any former period, as they have, for ſome years paſt, in all parts of the world. Europe, eſpecially, has been the theatre upon which the moſt conſpicuous part has been acted. The watch word of the infidels there has been, *Cruſh the wretch*, that is Chriſt, and his cauſe and intereſt in the world. It is to be feared, that many alſo in America, have rallied around the ſame ſtandard, and adopted the ſame motto.

The friends of religion, on the other hand, have not been, for ſome time paſt, and are not now, inactive. Greater exertions than uſual have been made, and are now making, for the propagation of the Goſpel of Chriſt. "The chriſtian church," ſays a correct au-

thor, "is arouſed from the ſlumbers of ages, to make new exertions for the diſſemination of true religion throughout the world." To promote this important object, many Bible and Miſſionary ſocieties have been formed in various parts of Europe. In theſe benevolent exertions, however, it has fallen to the lot of G. Britain to take the lead. America has alſo of late been a little awakened from her ſlumbers. God grant that we may ſee more of this diſpoſition among us.

It may be expected that Great Britain and America will take the moſt active part in the diffuſion of the Goſpel among the heathen nations. The other nations of Europe who profeſs to be chriſtians, are under ſuch political embarraſſments, as to be obliged, at preſent, to lie dormant. It is well known alſo, that in England and America, pure religion has taken a deeper root, and has flouriſhed more, for ſome time paſt, than in any other parts of the earth. In theſe climes then, we may expect the greateſt exertions will be made to enlighten the heathen.

It is with no ſmall degree of pleaſure, that we here recite, what has already been done, in theſe United States, for the promotion of chriſtian knowledge. Many miſſionaries have been employed, for ſeveral years, in our new ſettlements, and we hope with a good degree of ſucceſs. Thouſands have thereby had the privilege of hearing the Goſpel, who before had not heard a ſermon for ſome years. Many Towns have likewiſe, been excited to feel the importance of

religion ſo much, as to ſettle miniſters among themſelves. The diſtribution of books has alſo been attended with a very good effect. The diſtribution of the Bible, eſpecially, is of vaſt importance. Societies for this purpoſe, bleſſed be God, have very lately ariſen, in almoſt all parts of the United States. All denominations of men, who profeſs to believe the Bible to be the word of God, are, now, more or leſs engaged in this benevolent object. May the happy effects be equal to our hopes and expectations.

In addition to other benevolent inſtitutions there has lately been formed in this, and one of the adjoining States, a Board of Commiſſioners for foreign miſſions. The object of this is, to ſend miſſionaries to the heathen, as far as they are able, into all parts of the world. Many auxiliary ſocieties are alſo inſtituted for the ſame important purpoſe. And we hope that a ſpirit of benevolence will be ſo diffuſive, as not to ſuffer the object to fail for want of ſupport.

Under the auſpices of him who is gathering together his people, great progreſs has been, for ſeveral years paſt, in tranſlating the Bible, into the various languages of the eaſt. It is printed in the moſt of thoſe languages, and ſent to many of thoſe nations gratis. What a noble preſent! With what gratitude muſt they who read and underſtand it, receive this word of life! The greateſt bleſſing which you can beſtow upon us, ſaid one of the Syrians, to Dr. Buchanan, is the Bible.* We hope the time will ſoon come when

* Chriſtian Reſearches Page 96.

this bleſſed charter of all our ſpiritual privileges, will be given to all nations ; and that they will be able to improve it in a proper manner.

The moſt that is done in tranſlating, printing, and diſtributing the bible in India, is done under the patronage of the Miſſionary Society, the Bible Society, the Society for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge, and the Baptiſt Miſſionary Society in England. The Agents of all theſe ſocieties, and denominations of chriſtians, are there, all united in promoting the ſame object ; and their united exertions have done wonders. In conſequence of them, we ſee light begin to dawn with ſo much glory in the eaſt. It is computed that "the people of England, notwithſtanding the enormous burden of the war they ſuffer, expend hundreds of thouſands of dollars annually in diſtributing the Bible, employing miſſionaries, tranſlating the ſcriptures, and other extraordinary methods, in diſpenſing the Goſpel to mankind" They have their miſſionaries both in the eaſt and weſt Indies, in Greenland, in Africa, in many of the Iſlands in the ſouthern ocean, and New Holland. In all theſe places, the ſound of the Goſpel trumpet, now, begins to be heard. And if it be but ſmall at the beginning, we truſt, that the walls of the mighty Jericho of Heathen Idolatry and ſuperſtition will fall before it.

The Goſpel is the grand inſtrument, ordained by infinite wiſdom, to turn people from darkneſs to light, and from Satan to God. An inſtance of this may be

ſeen, in the ſucceſs of a miſſionary eſtabliſhment at Franquebar near a century ago, and continued till now. It was begun by Diegenbalg; he was ſucceeded by Swartz and it has not failed of the divine bleſſing. "It is eſtimated that not leſs than eighty thouſand Pagans have forſaken their Idols and their vices, and been added to the chriſtian church by this ſingle eſtabliſhment."* We might mention other places alſo, where the ſmiles of heaven have equally attended miſſionary labors. And few exertions have been made, but have been crowned with a good degree of ſucceſs.

The door for publiſhing the Goſpel among the heathen is, at preſent, more widely open than at any former period. The heralds of ſalvation are cordially received; and are heard with attention, in almoſt every part of the world. "The general hiſtory of ſuch miſſions as have been conducted on chriſtian principles, and with a real regard to the converſion of the heathen, affords abundant reaſon to proceed." Nothing can be more pleaſing than to hear, with what eagerneſs many of theſe benighted people receive the word of God. The inſtance of what Dr. Buchanan ſaw and heard, when paſſing through the woods, near Tanjore, is enough to excite our tendereſt ſenſations. "This place was inhabited by the Collaries, or thieves, now humanized by chriſtianity." "When they ſaw me, ſays the Dr. and underſtood who I was, they followed me in the road, ſtating their deſtitute condi-

* Address to the Christian Public

tion in regard to religious inſtruction. They were *clamorous for Bibles.* They ſupplicated for teachers. We dont want bread, or money from you, ſaid they, but we want the word of God."†

This learned Author has done more to ſhow the wants of the heathen in the eaſt, than any other man. He has ſucceeded better alſo in pointing out the means of a remedy. What he has written, ought to be in the hands of every one, who feels any degree of intereſt in the ſalvation of his fellow-men. He will here, clearly ſee, what good may be done, by carrying the glad tidings of the Goſpel to them. He will, likewiſe, find ſtrong inducements to join heart and hand to aid in ſo noble, and ſo benevolent a cauſe.

We are now

3. To ſhow what appears yet to be done.

One important object to be purſued is, to aid thoſe who are tranſlating and diſtributing the Bible among the heathen. In this way, there remains a great deal yet to be done. It is very neceſſary that the meaſures which have been begun, ſhould be continued, and proſecuted with increaſing energy. We may then hope, that the time will ſoon come, when all the nations of the world will be able to read the Bible in their own language. This will alſo open the door ſtill wider for miſſionary labors. We cannot doubt that thoſe who have the word of God, and in any meaſure underſtand it, will gladly hear it diſpenſed to them. The joyful tidings will be to them, like life

† Christian Researches.

from the dead. It thus appears of importance, therefore, that miſſionaries ſhould be ſent to every part of the world. There ſhould be no place inhabited by human beings, where the Ambaſſadors of Chriſt are not, likewiſe, to be found.

The miniſters of Chriſt have abundant encouragement to proceed to the uttermoſt ends of the earth. Lo, I am with you alway, ſays our Savior, even to the end of the world. This promiſe reaches, not only to the end of time, but to all parts of the earth. As long as they have the promiſe of Chriſt's preſence with them, they ought to preach the Goſpel to every creature. Thoſe who cannot go into far diſtant parts of the world themſelves, ought to uſe all their influence, to encourage others; and to afford them all the aid in their power.

It is the duty, indeed, of all men who are favored with the light of the Goſpel, and are able, to lend a helping hand to this important work. This may be done by aiding to ſupport thoſe, who are actually engaged in it. Miſſionaries cannot live among the heathen, without ſupport from others. Even Paul himſelf, was not always maintained by the people to whom he preached. I robbed other churches, ſaid he to the Corinthians, taking wages of them to do you ſervice. In all things I have kept myſelf from being burdenſome to you, and ſo will I keep myſelf. And how did he do this? That which was lacking to me, ſays he, the brethren which came from Macedonia ſupplied. O that there were thouſands of ſuch breth-

ren as came from Macedonia to ſupply Paul, in our land. If people, in general, were now as much diſpoſed to provide for the laborers in Chriſt's vineyard as theſe brethren were then, there might be an hundred miſſionaries among the heathen, where there now is but one, or not even one.

It is high time, my brethren, for all who enjoy the privileges of the Goſpel, to awake from their long ſlumbers, as it reſpects the heathen nations. They have ſlept much too long, already ; and not ſo much as dreamt of the obligations they are under to theſe benighted pilgrims. How long, my friends, through the negligence of Chriſtian countries, ſhall they be permitted to remain in darkneſs, and in the regions of the ſhadow of death ? What benevolent heart is not ready to bleed at the thought of their deplorable condition ? How much longer ſhall they be permitted to grope their way through darkneſs, to regions of eternal deſpair ? How much longer, ſhall Satan be ſuffered, through their ignorance of the Goſpel, to lead them captive, at his pleaſure ? O my friends, they have immortal ſouls as well as we. Chriſt died for them as much as he did for us. Their ſalvation is alſo of as much importance as our own. How then can we be contented that they ſhould famiſh for the bread of life, when in our Father's houſe there is enough and to ſpare. Let theſe ſuggeſtions, my brethren come home to our hearts, and to our conſciences ; and let thoſe of us who are liberal, ſtudy liberal things.

The benevolence which our bleſſed Savior has diſ-

covered, in the redemption of men, is infinite. His Apoſtles and miniſters, in the firſt ages of chriſtianity, imbibed the ſame ſpirit. This ſpirit, now, in a greater or leſs degree animates all the ſincere diſciples of Christ. O that it were again revived in all its ancient power and energy! That all people, who enjoy the light of the goſpel, were animated with it. It would, at once, awaken the attention of all who live in a chriſtian land, to the wants of the heathen nations. What a change would this ſoon make in the ſtate of mankind! The whole world would ſoon be enlightened by the goſpel of Chriſt. All would, in a very little time, be taught to know the Lord even from the leaſt of them to the greateſt. This happy time, we now view to be nigh at hand. For I will pour out my ſpirit, ſaith the Lord, upon all fleſh; and the earth ſhall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the ſea." We now therefore, look forward with pleaſure to this joyful period. Taught by the writings of the prophets, we behold it to be very near. The miſſionary ſpirit now excited alſo, in the chriſtian world we view as its happy prelude. We are, now, therefore, ready to hail the day, when the Angel, in the midſt of heaven, ſhall fly through the earth, having the everlaſting goſpel to preach to every nation and kindred, and tongue, and people.

In the various ways, we have mentioned, it is the purpoſe of Chriſt to gather in his people; and they will all, finally, be gathered together in one. They

will come from the eaſt and from the weſt, and from the north and from the ſouth, and ſhall ſit down in the kingdom of God. All the children of God, in every generation, from Adam to the end of time, will there meet around the throne of God and of the Lamb, and they ſhall go no more out, but be as the Angels of God forever. This alſo will be there joyful ſong, "Thou waſt ſlain and haſt redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue and people and nation." Bleſſed then is the nation to whom the word of this ſalvation is ſent. "Bleſſed is the people that know the joyful ſound."

Several ſhort addreſſes will now cloſe the diſcourſe. My thoughts are here naturally turned.

1. To thoſe of you, my brethren, who are about to leave your country for a foreign land. Your object is, to carry the goſpel of Chriſt, to a nation now involved in heathen darkneſs and error. A noble object! An object worthy all your attention. But in the proſecution of it, you muſt expect to meet with trials and difficulties. Preſume not then, my young friends, that your path before you will be ſtrewed with flowers; or that you will be able, always, to reſt upon a downy bed. You may be obliged, like Jacob, ſometimes, to aſſume a ſtone for your pillow. But ſhould the Lord be with you, as he was with him, you will find, even this to be a place of reſt. It will be to you, none other than the houſe of God, and the gate of heaven. Encompaſſed by his preſence, you will always be ſafe, and may always be happy.

Commit yourſelves then wholly to him, walk near to him; and in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.

It is of real importance, my brethren, that you breathe the ſpirit of the goſpel wherever you go. This muſt alſo give life and energy to you in all your preaching. Let your ſermons then be highly ſeaſoned with the divine favor. Nothing can be more neceſſary; and nothing more important. Go forth then in the ſpirit and power of Elias, to turn the heathen from their idols, and the diſobedient to the wiſdom of the juſt. Go forth under the protection of him, who holdeth the ſtars in his hand, and can make them ſhine in the dark places of the earth. Go forth, with the Angel, having the everlaſting goſpel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth. Quit yourſelves like men; and be ſtrong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. And if, like Paul, you have to fight with beaſts, not at Epheſus, but at Rangoon, like him alſo, be valiant for the truth—Contend earneſtly for the faith, and behave as good ſoldiers of Jeſus Chriſt. But you are always to remember that the weapons of your warfare are not carnal, but ſpiritual; and that they are mighty through God, to the pulling down of ſtrong holds, caſting down imaginations, and every high thing, that exalteth itſelf againſt the knowledge of God. Gird on then the whole armour of God; and above all, take the ſhield of faith, wherewith ye ſhall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

May he who leadeth Joſeph like a flock ever be with you. May he be your Guide and Inſtructor. And may you be made inſtrumental of gathering thouſands of the heathen into his church and kingdom.

My attention is next,

2. Called to thoſe young women, who are alſo about to leave us for a diſtant country.

My dear children—you are now engaged in the beſt of cauſes. It is that cauſe for which Jeſus the Son of God came into the world and ſuffered and died. You literally forſake father and mother, brothers and ſiſters, for the ſake of Chriſt, and the promotion of his kingdom. In this employment, you, probably, have an arduous work before you—A work, that will occupy all your talents and much of your time.

"When I was at Chinganoor," ſays Dr. Buchanan, (a place inhabited by chriſtians,) "the ſight of the women aſſured me that I was once more in a chriſtian country. For the Hindoo women, and the Mahomedan women, and, in ſhort, all women, who are not chriſtians, are accounted by the men an inferior race, and, in general, are confined to the houſe for life, like irrational creatures."*

It will be your buſineſs, my dear children, to teach theſe women, to whom your huſbands can have but little, or no acceſs. Go then, and do all in your power, to enlighten their minds, and bring them to the knowledge of the truth. Go, and if poſſible, raiſe their character to the dignity of rational beings, and to the rank of chriſtians in a chriſtian land. Teach

* Chriſtian Researches.

them to realize, that they are not an inferior race of creatures; but ſtand upon a-par with men. Teach them that they have immortal ſouls; and are no longer to burn themſelves, in the ſame fire, with the bodies of their departed huſbands. Go, bring them from their cloiſters into the aſſemblies of the ſaints. Teach them to accept of Chriſt as their Savior, and to enjoy the privileges of the children of God.

Should you be able, in any meaſure, to raiſe the female character in the eaſt, and bring but a ſmall proportion of them to know their Savior, it will, undoubtedly, afford you great ſatisfaction. Mrs. Palm, in the iſland of Ceylon, enjoyed, in ſome degree, this pleaſure. I aſked her, ſays Dr. Buchanan, if ſhe had no wiſh to return to Europe, after living ſo long among the uncivilized Cingaleſe. No, ſhe ſaid, ſhe was all the day long happy in the communication of knowledge. How happy would it be, to hear, that you are equally ſucceſsful, and have the ſame enjoyment! May you live to ſee the fruit of your labors, in the converſion of thouſands of your ſiſters in the eaſt, and find that they, with their huſbands and others, have turned from their Idols, to ſerve the only living and true God. And may the Lord himſelf be with you, and ſupport and comfort you, and be your portion forever. Again,

3. Let thoſe of you, my friends, who are the parents of thoſe young people, about to leave us, endeavor to realize the ſuperintending providence of God in it. In this way you may be, and, I hope are, re-

conciled to it. For, you muſt acknowledge, that it is *He* only could inſpire your children with ſo much courage and reſolution. You know that they have the tendereſt feelings for their connections and relations; and that they have no more deſire to leave you, and them, than any others. You firmly believe, that it is from a ſenſe of duty only, that they aſſume this courage, and dare to face ſo many dangers. It is becauſe they have a deſire to aid thoſe, who are going to carry the glad tidings of the goſpel to the heathen. You cannot, therefore, but approve of their motives, even when you feel ever ſo much reluctance, to have them leave you. Whatever may be your feelings then, it may be your duty, as far as poſſible, to ſuppreſs them. Be very cautious, therefore, how you throw any more weight in that ſcale which is now ready to ſink too low, under its own burden. It is neceſſary, as far as you are able, to keep the ſtate of your minds, calm, compoſed and reſigned to the will of God. You have, formerly, committed them into his hands, and reſigned them to his diſpoſal. He has alſo, we truſt, already, taken them under his peculiar care and direction. Be perſuaded now then, renewedly, to commit them to the care of him who made them. He will ſtill take care of them, and provide for them. He will yet be their father and their friend, and will never leave nor forſake them. And ſhould you never ſee them again, here on earth, we hope the ſeparation will not be forever. We truſt that when you and they have finiſhed your courſe

here below, you will again meet, in heaven, to part no more. We fully believe that the children of God who are now ſcattered abroad will there be gathered together in one. Let this be your comfort and conſolation. Again,

4. Let all your hearts, and your prayers, my chriſtian brethren, follow theſe youths, wherever they go, even to the ends of the earth.

I know indeed, that if you have any intercourſe at the throne of grace, you cannot but pray for them. You muſt pray, that God would keep and preſerve them from every danger; and that they may arrive at their deſired haven in health and ſafety—You muſt pray, that they may be received by the heathen with attention; and may there ſhine as lights in the midſt of darkneſs and error—That they may be ſucceſsful in the converſion of thouſands of theſe pagans from their Idols to the worſhip of God. May your prayers be heard. And may the Lord be their pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night, to direct them in all their ways.

Finally. My brethren of this whole aſſembly; You ſee what theſe young people are about to do for the converſion of the heathen. They are ready to hazard their health and their lives in the promotion of this benevolent object. You are ſenſible that they leave a country, where their proſpects of comfort and happineſs are as fair as others. They are going to regions, where the climate to ſtrangers is unhealthy and impure, and where the life even of the natives is

but ſhort. All this they do, for the ſake of extending the goſpel of the Redeemer, and the ſalvation of immortal ſouls. And is there nothing to be done by thoſe of you, my friends, who ſtay at home? They now throw themſelves upon the charity of their native country. To this they muſt look for their ſupport. And I hope, that the charity of this country will not permit them to want. But to you, my hearers, we muſt look, at ſome future period, for a part. And I truſt, that when requeſted, you will not be unwilling to contribute your mite.

To the care of the great Head of the church I now commit them. To his grace I alſo reſign you all. May he gather you together in one. And may you all return and come to Zion with a ſong, and with ſhouts of everlaſting joy.

AMEN.

A HYMN—Written for the occasion.

GO, ye heralds of salvation;
Go, and preach in heathen lands;
Publish loud to every nation,
What the LORD of life commands.

Go, ye sisters their companions,
Sooth their cares, and wipe their tears;
Angels shall in bright battalions
Guide your steps, and guard your fears.

Go, ye pilgrims, heir of glory,
Show to Pagans CHRIST your King;
While the gospel is your story.
Earth shall with hosannas ring.

Go, and let your whole behaviour,
Show your love to CHRIST your LORD;
Let the heathen know their SAVIOUR,
Teach them to obey his word.

Led by him, who in a manger,
Once a feeble infant lay;
In rough climates, free from danger,
You shall plough your briny way.

Speed your course across the ocean,
Till you reach the Birman throne;
Tell those nations their devotion
Must be paid to CHRIST alone.

Landed safe in distant regions
Tell the Birmans JESUS died;
Tell them satan and his legions,
Bow to him they crucified.

Far beyond the mighty Ganges,
When vast floods between us roll:
Think how wisely JESUS ranges,
Nations wide from pole to pole.

While with heathen nations blended,
Light and peace within shall rise;
When your days on earth are ended,
Christ receive you to the skies.

To his grace we now resign you,
To him only you belong:
You with every Christian Hindoo,
Join at last th' Angelic throng.

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